

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 101997

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 101997

PARIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, US, UR

SUBJECT: MICROWAVES

FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT'S APRIL 27 PRESS
BREIFING:

Q. FRED, COULD YOU FIND OUT ON THAT RADIATION PROBLEM IN
MOSCOW HOW MANY FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OR THEIR WIVES AND
CHILDREN HAVE ASKED THE DEPARTMENT FOR SPECIAL MEDICAL
ATTENTION RELATING TO POSSIBLE RADIATION DAMAGE TO THEM?

A. YOU ARE ASKING ME IF I CAN POSE THAT QUESTION AND
FIND OUT?

Q. I'M ASKING YOU FOR AN ANSWER. AND NOW THE BUREAU,
CRATIC THING FOR YOU TO DO, I SUSPECT, IS TO SAY YOU WILL
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 101997

EITHER TAKE IT OR NOT.

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE FEEL THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY RADIATION HAVING WORKED IN THE EMBASSY OVER THE LAST DECADE.

A. MARVIN, I CAN TAKE THAT QUESTION. I AM NOT SURE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO GO BEYOND WHAT WE HAVE SAID ON THAT

LINE OF QUESTIONING BEFORE.

Q. WHY IS IT THAT YOU ARE SO DEFENSIVE ON THIS ISSUE? ARE YOU AFRAID TO TELL US THINGS?

A. I DO NOT THINK IT IS A QUESTION OF BEING AFRAID TO TELL YOU THINGS.

Q. WHAT IS IT?

A. THE SECRETARY SAID IT QUITE SUCCINCTLY ON FEBRUARY 12, AND HE HAS REPEATED THAT SEVERAL TIMES; NAMELY, THIS IS AN ISSUE OF GREAT DELICACY. THERE ARE A LOT OF RAMIFICATIONS.

Q. CLEARLY. FOR THE PEOPLE WHO MAY BE AFFECTED BY THIS IT CERTAINLY IS DELICATE, AND IT COULD EVEN BE HARMFUL. WHAT IS THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HERE--THAT YOU WILL UPSET THE RUSSIANS, OR THAT YOU WILL INTERFERE WITH YOUR OWN INTELLIGENCE GATHERING OPERATION, OR WHAT?

A. WHAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IS THAT WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF VERY DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SUBJECT. WE CERTAINLY DO NOT WANT TO UPSET WHAT IS NOW IN PROGRESS. OUR OVERWHELMING CONCERN--AND I THINK THE SECRETARY HAS MADE THIS VERY CLEAR--IS THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE IN MOSCOW. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD NOT SERVE THIS PURPOSE, NAMELY, PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE IN MOSCOW, TO GO INTO ANY GREATER DETAIL AS TO THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. WHAT WAS THAT LAST SENTENCE?
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 101997

A. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD SERVE OUR PURPOSE TO GO INTO ANY GREATER DETAIL WITH REGARD TO THESE DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. WHAT WAS THAT LAST SENTENCE?

A. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD SERVE OUR PURPOSE TO GO

INTO ANY GREATER DETAIL WITH REGARD TO THESE DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. AT WHAT LEVEL AND WHERE ARE THOSE DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS TAKING PLACE?

A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID ON THIS AS TO LEVEL OR TYPE OR WHAT HAVE YOU.

Q. FRED, AS A COROLLARY TO MARV'S QUESTION, WHEN YOU ARE EXAMINING THIS THING PERHAPS YOU COULD CHECK TO SEE HOW MANY CASES OF WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION OR RELATED TYPE LEGAL ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN, PAID, OR PROCESSED CONCERNING ILLNESS IN MOSCOW.

A. IT SEEMS TO ME THIS QUESTION CAME UP SIX WEEKS OR TWO MONTHS AGO.

Q. WELL, THERE IS A RECORD AT LEAST OF ONE THAT WE KNOW OF WHERE PAYMENT WAS MADE AND RELATED TO A FATAL ILLNESS. PERHAPS THERE ARE OTHERS. THESE ARE THE KIND OF THINGS THAT WE COULD SEEK THROUGH FREEDOM OF INFORMATION. IT MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER FOR EVERYBODY IF YOU WOULD JUST CHECK.

A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK WHAT WE SAID FROM THIS PODIUM BEFORE ON THAT SUBJECT. IT SEEMS TO ME IT HAS COME UP PREVIOUSLY IN BOB FUNSETH'S BRIEFINGS ON THE SUBJECT. I WILL HAVE TO CHECK TO SEE WHAT WE SAID ON IT BEFORE. IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN USEFULLY SAY ON THE SUBJECT, WE WILL, KEN.

Q. EVEN IN THE MOST DELICATE OF NEGOTIATIONS, SAY, RELATING TO SALT, THE SPOKESMEN AT LEAST HAVE BEEN ABLE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 101997

TO SAY THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER AND AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT. WHY IS IT, IS THIS SO MUCH MORE DELICATE YOU CANNOT TELL US WHO IS TALKING TO WHOM, WHERE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT.

A. I THINK YOU HAVE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE QUESTION OF DELICACY WITH THE SPOKESMAN, AND I THINK WE HAVE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT AT THIS TIME IT IS NOT USEFUL TO GO INTO ANY FURTHER DETAIL WITH REGARD TO TALKS WE ARE HAVING ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q. USEFUL TO WHOM, CLEARLY YOU, OR TO THE PEOPLE IN MOSCOW?

A. I CAN ONLY COME BACK, MARVIN, TO THE SECRETARY'S

EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE IN MOSCOW. AND THAT IS THE POINT OF THE WHOLE OPERATION IN TERMS OF THE DISCUSSION, AND WE JUST FEEL IT WOULD NOT BE VERY HELPFUL TO GO INTO GREATER DETAIL ON ANY OF THE ASPECTS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN RAISING.

Q. YOU ARE RULING OUT THE CONCERN, THEN, ABOUT MAINTAINING CERTAIN AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS IN MOSCOW?

A. I AM NOT EVEN GOING TO ADDRESS THAT QUESTION.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO COME TO A FRUITION SOON?

A. I AM NOT INFORMED AS TO ANY TIMEFRAME FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. IT'S A PROBLEM, AND THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME MONTHS NOW. IF THE HEALTH PROBLEM STILL EXISTS, WE DON'T SEEM TO BE GETTING ANYWHERE IN SOLVING IT. IT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME IDEA AS TO WHEN THE THING IS GOING TO COME TO A CONCLUSION.

A. AS I SAY, I HAVE NO TIMEFRAME, KEN, FOR AN EXPECTED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 101997

RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. I CAN ONLY REITERATE THAT WE ARE CERTAINLY SEIZED WITH IT, AND THAT OUR CONCERN IS VERY DEFINITELY FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE IN MOSCOW.

Q. MAY I ADD TO MR. KALB'S REQUEST ABOUT THE NUMBER OF TRANSFERS THAT HAVE BEEN REQUESTED BY MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, TRANSFERS WHICH WERE OFFERED BY THE AMBASSADOR, I THINK, LAST DECEMBER, IF THEY WANTED TO BE REMOVED FROM THAT AREA.

A. YOU ARE ASKING FOR THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE REQUESTED TRANSFER? I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION, AND SEE WHAT WE CAN COME UP WITH.

Q. COULD WE GO BACK TO AN A-B-C ON THIS PARTICULAR THING? YOU KEEP EXPRESSING YOUR OVERWHELMING CONCERN FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE AMERICANS WORKING THERE. WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS OVERWHELMING CONCERN? PERHAPS THAT ANSWER TO THAT SIMPLE A-B-C QUESTION COULD LEAD US TOWARDS AN ANSWER TO SOME OF THE OTHER QUESTIONS.

A. YOU KNOW, MARVIN, I THINK THIS HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN GREAT, GREAT DETAIL.

Q. IF IT IS THE SAME WAY THAT THIS THING IS GOING, I AM NOT SURE THAT IT HAS HELPED ANYBODY YET.

A. I HAVE SEVERAL DOZEN PAGES OF DISCUSSION ON THE MATTER THAT YOU AND BOB FUNSETH ENGAGED IN ON FEBRUARY 27TH. THERE IS REALLY NOTHING I CAN ADD TO WHAT WE HAVE SAID ON THE SUBJECT BEFORE IN TERMS OF DESCRIBING THE PROBLEM OR IN TERMS OF TELLING YOU HOW WE ARE COPING WITH IT. THERE IS SIMPLY NOTHING I CAN ADD TO WHAT I HAVE SAID BEFORE.

Q. I WILL BE DELIGHTED TO GO BACK AND READ THE 27TH TRANSCRIPT, AND HOPEFULLY THERE ARE SOME ANSWERS TO SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS IN THAT TRANSCRIPT. BUT IF IT IS THE SAME THING THAT YOU ARE SAYING NOW, ALL THAT IT IS IS AN OBVIOUS EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO SAY NOTHING ABOUT IT.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 06 STATE 101997

A. I DO NOT THINK THAT IS ACCURATE.

Q. I SAID I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO GO BACK AND READ THE TRANSCRIPT.

A. ALL RIGHT, YOU ARE CERTAINLY WELCOME TO GO BACK AND LOOK AT THE TRANSCRIPT. BUT I CERTAINLY WOULD NOT AGREE WITH YOU THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS DOING NOTHING ON IT. WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION. AND I THINK THE SECRETARY HAS MADE VERY CLEAR HIS PERSONAL CONCERN WITH THE WHOLE MATTER. I CERTAINLY CANNOT DO BETTER THAN THAT,

Q. DOES THAT MANUSCRIPT YOU HAVE UP THERE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE IS A RADIATION PROBLEM IN THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW?

A. KEN, I HAVEN'T GONE THROUGH IT. I DO NOT HAVE TIME, REALLY, TO GO THROUGH IT RIGHT NOW. IF YOU WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT IT AFTER THE BRIEFING, I WILL BE GLAD TO SHOW IT TO YOU.

Q. BUT YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO SAY ON YOUR OWN, RIGHT NOW, WITHOUT REFERRING TO PREVIOUS STATEMENTS, THAT THERE IS EVEN A RADIATION PROBLEM IN THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW.

A. FOR NOW I AM GOING TO STICK WITH WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID ON THE SUBJECT.

Q. YOU HAVE SAID VERY LITTLE ON THE SUBJECT SUCCESSFULLY.
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